(b) whether the main causes have been analysed; and

(c) whethe'r any remedial measures have been taken to revive these sick mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA); (a) The number of cotton textile units that have fallen sick and have closed down since the introduction of the June, 1985 Textile Policy is 53.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

Coco Island as American Base

•26. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during his recent visit to the United States Mr. U. Ne Win, Chair man of the ruling Burmese Socialist Programme Party has offered the little Coco Island to the United States for having the latter's marine corps base there; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to this offer which poses a serious threat to our country's security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government are aware of speculative and unconfirmed press reports to this effect.

(b) Government are always alert to any developments having a bearing on India's security.

Illegal occupation of Indian Territory by Bangladesh

♦**27.** SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Assam Government has asked the Central Government to take immediate steps at appropriate level for the recovery of an eight kilometre strip of land in Mankachar area in Dhubri District presently under illegal occupation of Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, what has been the Central Government's response thereto and what action has been initiated in this regard and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has seen newspaper reports to this effect, Baraibari, an area which measures about 191.4* across in Mankachar in the Dhubri District of Assam, is at present in the adverse possession of Bangladesh. Under the provisions of the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974 this area will become part of India after the Agreement is ratified.

News-item Captioned "Counter-Trade deal with Iran in Dumps"

*28. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Counter-trade deal with Iran in dumps" which appeared in the Times of India of the 30th June, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the causes responsible for such a situation;

(c) how far this will affect India's trade and foreign exchange position; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a divergence in the interpretation of the agreement